

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-31 merely for the sake of better conformity with U.S. patent practice. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-24 and 27-29 contain allowable subject matter. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25, 26, 30, and 31 are also patentable.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because they allegedly do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Applicant respectfully submits new FIG. 4 and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection. Applicant also respectfully submits that no new matter is being added.

Applicant further submits a Replacement FIG. 1 to cure a minor informality.

Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to because specification's arrangement is allegedly not in proper order.

Applicant amends the specification, as shown above, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 25 and 26 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of previous claim.

Applicant amends claims 25 and 26, and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objections in view of these self-explanatory amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly failing to particularly point out the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant amends claims 30 and 31, and respectfully submits that claims 30 and 31 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicant amends claims 30 and 31, and respectfully submits that claims 30 and 31 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by van Heeswyk et al. (U.S. Patent 6,298,050, hereinafter “van Heeswyk”).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 31 should be deemed patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 25.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,795,701, hereinafter “Baker”).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 31 should be deemed patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 25.

Allowable Subject Matter

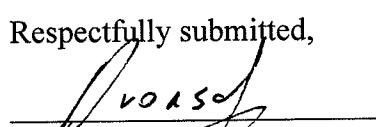
Claims 1-24 and 27-29 are allowed. Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: September 22, 2008